

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A digital information embedding device, comprising:  
input means receiving a digital content input;  
feature value detection means detecting a feature value of at least a  
partial area of said digital content input; and  
5 information embedding means modifying said area, based on said  
feature value detected.
2. The digital information embedding device of claim 1, wherein:  
said input means receives an image; and  
said feature value detection means detects as said feature value a  
value indicating a level allowing a human visual sense to perceive a pixel  
5 value vary.
3. The digital information embedding device of claim 2, wherein  
said information embedding means changes a value of a pixel in said area  
only when said feature value detected is a value preventing the human  
visual sense from perceiving the pixel value vary.
4. The digital information embedding device of claim 2, wherein  
said information embedding means includes range determination means  
setting a larger variation range for the pixel value if said feature value  
detected has a higher level allowing the human visual sense to perceive the  
5 pixel value vary, and said information embedding means changes a value of  
the pixel in said area within said variation range determined.
5. The digital information embedding device of claim 1, wherein:  
said information embedding means includes range determination  
means determining a variation range for the pixel value, based on said  
feature value detected; and  
5 said information embedding means changes a value of the pixel in  
said area within said variation ranged determined.

6. The digital information embedding device of claim 1, wherein said feature value detection means includes transform means orthogonally transforming a value of a pixel in said area to detect as said feature value at least one high frequency component of a frequency component orthogonally transformed.

7. The digital information embedding device of claim 1, wherein:  
said input means receives an image;  
said feature value detection means detects as a feature value a value in brightness of a pixel included in said area; and  
said information embedding means includes range determination means setting a larger variation range for a pixel value if said value in brightness detected is smaller, and said information embedding means changes a value in brightness of the pixel in said area within said variation range determined.

8. A computer-readable recording medium having recorded therein a program provided to embed digital information and causing a computer to perform the steps of:

receiving a digital content input;  
detecting a feature value of at least a partial area of said digital content input; and  
modifying said area, based on said feature value detected.

9. The recording medium of claim 8, wherein:  
the step of receiving includes the step of receiving an image; and  
the step of detecting includes the step of detecting as said feature value a value indicating a level allowing a human visual sense to perceive a pixel value vary.

10. The recording medium of claim 9, wherein the step of modifying changes a value of a pixel in said area only when said feature value detected is a value preventing the human visual sense from perceiving the pixel

value vary.

11. The recording medium of claim 9, wherein the step of modifying includes the step of setting a larger variation range for the pixel value if said feature value detected has a higher level allowing the human visual sense to perceive the pixel value vary, and of changing a value of the pixel in said area within said variation range determined.

12. The recording medium of claim 8, wherein the step of modifying includes the step of determining a variation range for the pixel value, based on said feature value detected, and of changing a value of the pixel in said area within said variation range determined.

13. The recording medium of claim 8, wherein the step of detecting includes the step of orthogonally transforming a value of a pixel in said area to detect as said feature value at least one high frequency component of a frequency component orthogonally transformed.

14. The recording medium of claim 8, wherein:  
the step of receiving includes the step of receiving an image;  
the step of detecting includes the step of detecting as a feature value a value in brightness of a pixel included in said area; and  
the step of modifying includes the step of setting a larger variation range for a pixel value if said value in brightness detected is smaller, and of changing a value in brightness of the pixel in said area within said variation range determined.

15. A method of embedding digital information, comprising the steps of:  
receiving a digital content input;  
detecting a feature value of at least a partial area of said digital content input; and  
modifying said area, based on said feature value detected.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein:  
the step of receiving includes the step of receiving an image; and  
the step of detecting includes the step of detecting as said feature  
value a value indicating a level allowing a human visual sense to perceive a  
pixel value vary.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of modifying changes  
a value of a pixel in said area only when said feature value detected is a  
value preventing the human visual sense from perceiving the pixel value  
vary.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of modifying includes  
the step of setting a larger variation range for the pixel value if said feature  
value detected has a higher level allowing the human visual sense to  
perceive the pixel value vary, and of changing a value of the pixel in said  
area within said variation range determined.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein the step of modifying includes  
the step of determining a variation range for the pixel value, based on said  
feature value detected, and of changing a value of the pixel in said area  
within said variation range determined.

20. The method of claim 15, wherein the step of detecting includes  
the step of orthogonally transforming a value of a pixel in said area to detect  
as said feature value at least one high frequency component of a frequency  
component orthogonally transformed.

21. The method of claim 15, wherein:  
the step of receiving includes the step of receiving an image;  
the step of detecting includes the step of detecting as a feature value  
a value in brightness of a pixel included in said area; and  
the step of modifying includes the step of setting a larger variation  
range for a pixel value if said value in brightness detected is smaller, and of

changing a value in brightness of the pixel in said area within said variation range determined.